

THE CEFR COMPANION VOLUME

A key resource for inclusive plurilingual education

CEFR Webinar Series 2021 #6

Developing meaningful tasks for teaching, learning and
assessment with the Action-oriented Approach

Johann Fischer

Wednesday, 6 October 2021, 16.00 CET

Pre-tasks

Welcome to the Council of Europe’s webinar on “Developing meaningful tasks for teaching, learning and assessment with the Action-oriented Approach”. This webinar will provide an introduction to the CEFR’s underlying Action-oriented Approach in language teaching, learning and assessment, with a focus on language learning in higher education and in vocational training.

After an **introduction to the topic**, you will discuss the **usefulness of this approach** in your own context with colleagues from other institutions and countries, and you will **develop** in groups **additional tasks**.

In preparation of this webinar, we kindly invite you to **complete the three following pre-tasks**.

Pre-task 1: Suggested reading

In a separate file you will find two short texts (5 pages in total) that provide an introduction to the Action-oriented Approach. You may read these texts **before or after the webinar**.

The two texts are taken

- a) from a forthcoming publication by Enrica Piccardo and Brian North:

Piccardo, E. and North, B. (in press). Enriching the scope of language education: The CEFR Companion Volume. Chapter 1 in B. North, E. Piccardo, T. Goodier, D. Fasoglio, R. Margonis and B. Rüschoff (Eds.), *Enriching 21st century language education: The CEFR companion volume, examples from practice*. Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing.

- b) from the CEFR Companion Volume (2020):

Council of Europe. (2020), *Common European framework of reference for languages: Learning, teaching, assessment. Companion volume*, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg, pp. 29-30.

Pre-task 2: Introduction to the Action-oriented Approach – MP4 file

Please **watch an introductory video** (approximately 10 minutes) to the Action-oriented Approach and the notion of the social agent on [Vimeo](#). You may either watch the introduction in [English](#) or in [French](#)¹.

If you wish, **take notes on aspects you find relevant** for your own teaching and assessment activities and **aspects you think need further clarification**. You will have an opportunity to **discuss them with colleagues during the breakout room sessions** of the webinar.

Pre-task 3: Reflecting on sample tasks

In a separate file, you will find sample classroom tasks in different languages and at different CEFR levels.

Please have a **look at the sample tasks** (depending on the languages you understand) before the webinar. As you do so, please reflect upon the question:

- **Do these tasks follow an action-oriented approach and why – or why not?**

¹ These two videos have been developed by the ECML Project “CEFR Companion Volume implementation toolbox” (short: “VITbox Project”). Further information on this project is available at: www.ecml.at/companionvolumetoolbox.

Please take into account the criteria of “relevant and meaningful tasks” presented in the video of pre-Task 2. **You will discuss some of these tasks with colleagues during the breakout room sessions** of the webinar.